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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BERKLEY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 27, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELLY BERKLEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) for 5 minutes.

DEMOCRAT TAX INCREASES IN OUR FUTURE

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, this week the House is going to be taking up the budget and there is nothing more basic in the fundamental process of being a legislator than the budget. What is written in the budget says a lot. In fact, the budget is really a defining difference when you put forward your budget.

The Democratic leadership is planning to bring their partisan Democratic budget to the floor. Again when

you get down to basics, the differences are pretty clear because what is in the Democrat leadership's budget that they are bringing to the floor today is the biggest tax increase in the history of our Nation. Think about that. Can we really afford to tax the middle class more.

In their first order of business in the 110th Congress, the Democrats made it easier to raise taxes. When Republicans were in the majority, we said you couldn't raise taxes unless you had a two-thirds vote. The Democrats eliminated that because they wanted to make it easier to raise taxes. They have eliminated that rule.

They have shown their agenda before. Back when the Democrats were in the majority back when President Clinton called for a big tax increase, the Democrats followed and they rubber-stamped a tax increase at that time, which was the biggest tax increase in the history of our Nation, a \$240 billion tax increase on the American people.

Just this past week, the Democrats outdid themselves. In fact, they brought an even bigger tax increase to the floor that we are going to debate this week. It was \$240 billion 13 years ago, today it is a \$400 billion tax increase. They plan to raise the tax on every taxpayer; man, woman, child, married, if you die, you are going to pay more in taxes under the Democrat budget.

In fact, if you are a typical couple in the district I represent making \$60,000 a year, mom, dad and two kids, you will pay on average \$2,000 more in higher taxes. That is a 60 percent increase in higher taxes called for in the Democrat budget.

In 2001 and 2003, Republicans worked with the President. We worked to eliminate unfairness in the Tax Code. We worked to lower taxes for the middle class. We succeeded in 2001 and 2003 in reducing taxes for a typical American family. And again, for a family

making about \$60,000 a year, those tax cuts meant about \$2,000 more in higher take-home pay. That is money they can spend on their own needs.

In my home State of Illinois, 4.2 million taxpayers benefited from the creation of a new, lower tax bracket. We lowered taxes for everyone, but for lower income Americans, we created a 10 percent tax bracket. Today, 5 million Americans no longer pay Federal taxes because of that new tax bracket; and 1.4 million taxpayers benefited from our efforts to eliminate the marriage tax penalty. We increased the child tax credit benefiting 1.3 million Illinoisans.

We also passed into law my legislation which eliminated the marriage tax penalty. I stood on this floor day after day after day and I asked a pretty fundamental question: Is it right, is it fair that our Tax Code punishes the most basic institution in our society, which is marriage. And in 2001 we passed the Marriage Tax Elimination Act. That was our third try. Twice we passed the Marriage Tax Elimination Act, eliminating the marriage tax penalty, a tax on marriage and President Clinton vetoed that twice. President Bush signed it into law.

But today, millions of couples, in fact 24 million married working couples no longer pay the marriage tax penalty thanks to that legislation being signed into law. Unfortunately, the Democrats want to bring the marriage tax penalty back. In fact, you will hear some this week say "they are probably rich" because if they pay the marriage tax penalty, they must be rich.

Well, under their legislation this week, 23 million typical married couples in America will see their taxes go up just from the marriage tax penalty alone of almost \$500 more in higher taxes just because they are married. Is that right? Is that fair?

We worked to benefit all taxpayers by lowering taxes in 2001 and 2003. Now

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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